

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 STR-01 TAR-01 AID-05 CEA-01

COME-00 EB-07 EA-06 FRB-03 IO-10 NEA-09 OPIC-03

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

/103 W

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R 211740Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9525

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: HEATH'S PARTICIPATION IN REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

REF: LONDON 3812

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 21, HEATH'S
CONSTITUENCY POLITICAL AGENT (JEFFREY J. SPEED) SAID
HEATH WAS TAKING ON A VERY HEAVY SCHEDULE OF SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS TO KEEP BRITAIN IN THE COMMON MARKET. HEATH
HAD SAID HE WOULD NOT TURN DOWN ANY REQUEST TO SPEAK IF
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HE COULD FIT IT IN HIS SCHEDULE. HEATH ALREADY HAS

COMMITMENTS TO SPEAK AT LARGE MEETINGS OUTSIDE LONDON (MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, AMONG OTHERS).

2. HEATH ALSO ENDORSED PLANS SPEED HAD MADE FOR THE EEC CAMPAIGN IN HIS CONSTITUENCY (BEXLEY, SIDCUP OUTSIDE LONDON) AND WOULD BE SPEAKING THERE, PARTICULARLY AT A LARGE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATE MAY.

3. SPEED SAID HEATH HAD RETURNED FROM HIS VACATION IN SPAIN AND HIS APPEARANCE AT KOENIGSWINTER LOOKING "TANNED AND FIT" WHICH WAS GOOD IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY SCHEDULE AHEAD. SPEED ALSO DISCOUNTED RUMORS REPORTED IN THE PRESS THAT HEATH, UPSET BY THE RESULTS OF THE LEADERSHIP ELECTION, WAS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WORKING WITH OR FOR MRS. THATCHER. SPEED NOTED THAT HEATH HAD PUBLICLY OFFERED HIS SUPPORT TO THATCHER AFTER THE ELECTION AND ACCUSED MEDIA OF ATTEMPTING TO MANUFACTURE DISSENSION WHERE NONE EXISTED.

4. COMMENT: PRESS HAS RECENTLY REPORTED HEATH TURNED DOWN MRS. THATCHER'S REQUEST TO HEAD UP CONSERVATIVE PARTY EEC CAMPAIGN EFFORT, WITH RESULT THATCHER ASKED WHITELAW TO TAKE THE POSITION. SPEED'S INFORMATION GIVES SOME INSIGHT AS TO HEATH'S CONCEPT OF HOW HE WILL PERFORM DURING THE CAMPAIGN. HE HAS APPARENTLY OPTED FOR A SOMEWHAT INDEPENDENT SPEAKING ROLE WHICH HE PROBABLY FEELS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ORGANIZATIONAL ONE.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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05 JUL 2006

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